

d.) Remarks

In the present amendment all rejected claims with the exception of claim 97 have been canceled. Thus all claims remaining, other than claim 97, have been indicated as allowable.

Claim 97 stands rejected under §103(a) over Selig and Varveris. Selig provides a keypad that has movable keys for inputting alphanumeric data into a touch screen. The keypad 14 is supported in a retainer frame 30 that is removably secured to the bezel that surrounds the touch screen. This mounting arrangement is entirely different from the claimed invention, and these differences are significant. For example, the Selig keypad requires that the keypad have a retainer frame, and that the screen has a bezel, and that the retainer frame interacts with the bezel to mount the keypad in its operating position proximate to the screen. In contrast, the claimed invention eliminates the need for a retainer frame, eliminate the need for a bezel surrounding the screen, and eliminates the need for the retainer frame to cooperatively engage the bezel. The claimed invention can be adhered to any touch screen without regard to its bezel design, etc., and is thus more widely applicable than the arrangement of the Selig reference. Moreover, the Selig retainer/bezel assembly impliedly relies on a corner mounting arrangement, since that would engage two sides of the keypad for support. This factor renders the Selig assembly not suitable for mounting in the middle of the screen, where side support is unavailable. Thus Selig is further limited in its useful mounting range, a limitation that the claimed invention overcomes.

The Varveris patent is cited for a showing of the crack-and-peel feature that is specified in claim 97. Varveris, however, has absolutely no teaching of the crack-and-peel feature. The crack-and-peel feature is clearly defined in the present application, in page 41, line 16 to page 42, line 3:

With regard to Figure 35, the controller devices of the invention may be provided as a group of devices 220, here representing any of the controller devices described herein (all the same or a variety selection of knobs and faders, etc.) The devices 220 are secured to a common scrim 221 that is scored at separating lines 222. The scrim 221 may incorporate the self-adhering base component of the respective knob, fader track, joystick, or the like. The user may separate a device from the group along a scored line 222, and peel away a bottom release layer 223 to expose the adhesive. The separated device may then be applied directly to a touch screen device and used as described herein. This is termed crack-and-peel packaging. Each device may be removed from a touch screen and reused many times, and ultimately discarded.

Clearly, the crack-and-peel feature requires a plurality of touch input devices, mounted on a common scrim, with score lines to enable separation of each device from the scrim, each device having an adhesive base protected by a bottom release layer that may be peeled away to expose the adhesive and allow the device to be secured to a touch screen.

Varveris discloses a finger-mounted stylus for interacting with a touch screen. The stylus is secured to the finger by a strap that is held about the finger by Velcro pads, magnetic pads, elastic loops, or the like. Varveris describes a single device that is NOT mounted on a scrim, does NOT have an adhesive base,

does NOT have score lines to separate a device from the plurality (there is no plurality) of devices, does NOT have a bottom release layer, and CANNOT be mounted on a touch screen. Clearly Varveris has no teaching of the crack-and-peel limitation of claim 97, and the combination with Selig thus fails to teach the claimed invention. Therefore, claim 97 should be allowed.

All claims now presented have been indicated as allowed, or are clearly allowable over the prior art, and this application is now in condition for issuance. Action toward that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harris Zimmerman, Esq.
Registration No. 16, 437
Attorney for Applicant
Law Offices of Harris Zimmerman
1330 Broadway, Suite 710
Oakland, California 94612
(510) 465-0828
Harris@zimpatent.com

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as properly posted first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

10/11/06

10/11/06
date

